



Find out more about the 47th annual Yuma Air Show in this week’s insert



MWSS-371 cooks roast opposition at MCI West culinary competition

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Friday: Sunny High: 78 Low: 51
Saturday: Sunny High: 83 Low: 52
Sunday: Sunny High: 84 Low: 55

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Photo by Lance Cpl. Austin Hazard

Cpl. Carlos Pizarro pays respects to fellow Combat Logistics Company 16 Marine, Cpl. Donte Jamal Whitworth, who died in a traffic accident at Camp Al Taqaddum in the Al Anbar Province, Iraq, Feb. 28.

CLC-16 honors fallen Marine

Lance Cpl. Austin Hazard
Desert Warrior Staff

A memorial service was held at the station chapel Monday afternoon for a Combat Logistics Company 16 Marine who died in a traffic accident in Iraq.

Cpl. Donte Jamal Whitworth, 21, of Noblesville, Ind., died on Camp Al Taqaddum in the Al Anbar Province Feb. 28, just two weeks before he was to return home.

Whitworth checked into CLC-16 May 9, 2006, serving as an automotive mechanic and participated in several Weapons and Tactics Instructors courses before deploying.

Whitworth deployed to Iraq in July 2008, serving with the 1st Maintenance Battalion, Comabt Logistics Regiment 15, as a machine gunner, escorting several combat logistics patrols throughout Al Anbar.

“This was not a 9-to-5 job for him,” said Lt. Shawn Osborne, station chaplain. “It was a lifestyle.”

Chaplains often hope they don’t have to

exaggerate about one of their Marines or sailors when times like this come around, said Osborne. With Whitworth, there was no such worry.

“He was an excellent Marine,” said Cpl. Tyler Perron, CLC-16 maintenance manager, who had known Whitworth since January 2006. “I knew if I asked him to do something, I wouldn’t have to worry about it being done right or on time.”

The 1st Marine Logistics Group commanding general and sergeant major, as well as the Combat Logistics Regiment 15 commanding officer and sergeant major attended the memorial.

During the ceremony, Perron spoke about his friendship and experiences with Whitworth.

“One of my earliest memories of the

Corps is of him, and I’m glad that I served with him,” said Perron. “I think I speak for everyone at CLC-16 and everybody else here when I say that we’ll never forget you and we’re proud to have served with you.”

The family was unable to attend the memorial since the funeral was held Tuesday.

“One of my earliest memories of the Corps is of him, and I’m glad that I served with him.”

— Cpl. Tyler Perron

“This ceremony was more for CLC-16 and the Marines here on station who knew Cpl. Whitworth,” said Osborne.

At the end of the ceremony, the guests stepped up to the fallen soldier battle cross, a memorial com-

posed of Whitworth’s boots, helmet, dog tags and rifle. One by one, they paid their respects. After the guests exited, the Marines of CLC-16 said farewell to their brother.

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Yuma NCO killed in off-road accident

A Yuma Marine was killed March 7 when he rolled his all-terrain vehicle at the Imperial County Sand Dunes outside of Yuma near Interstate 8.

Cpl. Cody Searway, 22, a heavy equipment operator with Marine Wing Support Squadron 371 since April 2006, was riding a Honda Sport Track 450 when the accident occurred at approximately 4:30 p.m.

According to Thomas Garcia of the Imperial County Coroner’s Office, Searway went airborne over a sand dune and rolled his vehicle.

Searway was wearing a helmet.

He enlisted in the Marine Corps in October 2005 from Harris, Texas.

Lance Cpl. Josue Aguirre
Desert Warrior Staff

A station explosive ordnance disposal Marine received a Bronze Star Medal with Combat V at Cannon Air Defense Complex Tuesday for his heroic actions in Iraq.

Staff Sgt. Thomas Smythe Jr., who serves with Marine Wing Support Squadron 371, earned the medal for his actions while deployed with the I Marine Expeditionary Force from February to September 2008.

According to Smythe’s award citation, his bravery and quick thinking ensured the rescue of two wounded Marines during a firefight Aug. 10, 2008, in Northern Iraq and his actions resulted in the death of a suicide bomber.

When he saw the two wounded Marines trying to save their own lives by attempting to get out from

under the intense firepower that was being exchanged, he did not hesitate to risk his own life to pull them to safety, said Smythe.

“A lot of stuff that I don’t want to think about happened that day,” said Smythe, “but it helps to know that if I was in that same situation and needed help, the Marines I’m with would do the same for me.”

During his deployment, Smythe supervised more than 68 EOD emergency response missions, including six to dispose of improvised explosive devices.

This resulted in the destruction of more than 1,000 pieces of seized enemy ammunition and 7,250 pounds of homemade explosives.

“We are all extremely proud of him in the EOD community,” said Master Gunnery Sgt. Carl Holden, MWSS-371 EOD staff noncomissioned officer in charge. “His actions don’t surprise us. He has little regard for himself and looks out for the Marines to his left and

right. We’re fortunate to have him as an EOD technician. The Marine Corps is fortunate to have him as a Marine.”

Even after receiving the Bronze Star, Smythe said he wishes he could’ve done more.

After the firefight, Smythe was informed that a Marine had been killed. There was no way of knowing exactly where and what state he was in until the fight was over.

“What if he was just wounded and could have been saved?” said Smythe despondently. “There could have been a chance to save him.”

His selflessness earned him the award and his superiors recognize that as one of his traits.

“Staff Sergeant Thomas Smythe’s actions are a credit to his individual character, proving his selfless concern for his fellow

see **EOD** page 4

Yuma EOD Marine awarded Bronze Star



Photo by Lance Cpl. Josue Aguirre

Staff Sgt. Thomas Smythe Jr. Marine Wing Support Squadron 371 explosive ordnance disposal technician received the Bronze Star Medal with Combat V at the Cannon Air Defense Complex Tuesday for his heroic actions while deployed to Iraq from February to September 2008.

BCP 60-day cautionary period discontinued

Cpl. Laura A. Mapes
Desert Warrior Staff

The 60-day notification period for Body Composition Program Marines was terminated March 2 in Marine Administrative Message 0145/06.

Marines in the Body Composition Program or who appear overweight, will no longer be given a notification or cautionary period to get within regulations.

Marines already in the cautionary period will be allowed to continue to work to meet the standards until their 60 days is up. Once the period ends, Marines will immediately be placed in the BCP.

“I don’t think the truth has hit home for a lot of these Marines,” said Staff Sgt. Robert Wahnee, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron training chief. “If the new policy hasn’t been taken seriously, it will be soon.”

The Corps is also putting more emphasis on appearance. If a Marine meets the height, weight and body composition standards, but doesn’t maintain a suitable appearance in uniform, they may still be placed in the Military Appearance Program.

The BCP and MAP are two distinct programs that have been around since at least 2002. Their purpose is to monitor and evaluate Marines as well as provide

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R. Lee Ermey to attend Yuma air show



Courtesy photo

R. Lee Ermey, retired staff sergeant and the actor who portrayed the iconic Gunnery Sgt. Hartman of Stanley Kubrick’s “Full Metal Jacket,” will be present at the 2009 Yuma Air Show Saturday.

Lance Cpl. Gregory Aalto
Desert Warrior Staff

One of the most iconic figures in Marine Corps history will be attending the 2009 Yuma Air Show here Saturday.

R. Lee Ermey, a retired staff sergeant and honorary gunnery sergeant, will be on hand to greet spectators at the Marine For Life program booth.

Marine For Life is a transition-assistance program for Marines and their families to get settled in their community after leaving active duty. The program taps into the network of Marine veterans and Marine-friendly businesses, organizations and individuals that are willing to lend a hand to Marines.

The Emporia, Kan., native is best known for his role in the 1987 Stanley Kubrick war film, “Full Metal Jacket.” Ermey portrayed Gunnery Sgt. Hartman, a hard-charging Parris Island drill instructor in charge of training the film’s protagonist, Private Joker.

The 64-year-old currently hosts The History Channel’s “Mail Call,” a documentary program. The premise of the show is Ermey answering viewer’s questions about military weapons and equipment, past and present. The show currently airs Friday’s at 11 p.m. Mountain Time.

DoD phasing out SSNs from ID cards

Lance Cpl. Austin Hazard
Desert Warrior Staff

The station began phasing out Social Security numbers from dependent identification cards Jan. 7 as part of a Department of Defense initiative to minimize the risk of identity theft.

“I think it’s a great idea,” said Lincoln Ware, a Naval Criminal Investigative Service special agent here who teaches an identity theft prevention class. “Any time you limit the exposure of personally identifiable information, you reduce the risk of identity theft-related crimes.”

Dependents’ SSNs will now be replaced with “SSN ON FILE” or a series of nine Xs, while their sponsors’ SSNs will remain on the dependent’s card until the end of the year.

Active duty, reserve and retiree IDs will not see changes to their

SSN until later this year.

“Dependents’ IDs are being adjusted first because the software is already in place to apply or remove dependents’ Social Security numbers,” said Louise Bussell, station personnel ID assistant. “The software still has to be updated to be able to modify service members’ socials.”

By 2012, SSNs embedded within ID card bar codes will also be removed.

The station ID center assures DoD cardholders the changes should have little effect on properly identifying individuals.

Cardholders may be asked to verbally give their SSN, but Bussell anticipates the lack of SSNs on IDs should not result in refusal of service.

Current cardholders must wait until their cards expire or become unserviceable to receive the new censored IDs.

To set up an appointment with the station ID center call 928-269-3588. Appointments are required after 1 p.m.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Austin Hazard

Esther Chavous, a retired Army spouse, receives her new dependent identification card at the station ID center, March 4. The Social Security number has been removed from Chavous’ ID, following a Department of Defense initiative to reduce the risk of identity theft.

Station leaders ready to create BASIC-ally trained Marines

Cpl. M. Daniel Sanchez
Desert Warrior Staff

After graduating the Building Alcohol Skills Intervention Curriculum course held here Feb. 19 at the Sonoran Pueblo, 30 alcohol skills instructor trainers hit the streets, ready to teach responsible drinking and decision making to junior Marines.

The course focused on arming instructor trainers with the tools, techniques and information needed to create effective BASIC instructors, who will be on the front lines of reducing irresponsible and heavy drinking within the Marine Corps.

Creating Marine trainers, specifically among staff NCOs, gives unit commanders another tool

to keep their Marines ready for combat, while improving the success of the BASIC program, said Chris Lee, course coordinator here.

BASIC was created at the request of Headquarters Marine Corps to reduce the amount of binge and heavy drinking within the Corps, which was shown in several Department of Defense surveys to be the highest in the military.

The DoD Survey of Health Related Behaviors Among Military Personnel, taken tri-annually since 1985, showed an average 30 percent of Marines surveyed classified themselves as heavy drinkers, having five or more drinks in one sitting.

The surveys also show the Marine Corps as the service with the highest percentage of drinkers younger than 21.

The future trainers received briefs covering the history, purpose, uses and effective commu-

nication strategies in developing a proper BASIC environment.

BASIC’s goal is to challenge Marines’ perceptions about alcohol and give them tools to make smart decisions when it comes to drinking, said Pamela Slatt, course instructor.

“This is not an alcohol abstinence program,” said Slatt. “It’s not something to be pounded into Marines.”

This is about creating an atmosphere where Marines can freely talk about what they think about alcohol and NCOs can gain a better understanding of their Marines’ drinking habits, said Slatt. This is one of the reasons why good communication skills are so important.

“In BASIC, you have to use a lot of your listening skills because it’s not a lecture, but a guided discussion,” said Slatt. “It’s interesting to see how,

through a guided discussion, Marines can come to their own decisions about responsible drinking and not feel pressured.”

Another goal of BASIC is to go over life experiences with the Marines and how careless decisions can easily make a situation worse, said Slatt.

Although the new trainers know BASIC will not fix all of the alcohol problems here, many of them are excited to put the program to use.

With staff NCOs leading the way on this program, it ensures everyone is on the same page and that senior leaders are able to support each other, said Staff Sgt. Suzanne Sunstrom, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 13 substance abuse control officer.

“If everybody’s behind it and enforcing it, that’s how you get change,” she said.

National Afterschool Association accredits youth center program



Photo by Lance Cpl. Josue Aguirre

The station youth center’s School Age Care Program was accredited by the National Afterschool Association, Nov. 18, 2008. The center had to meet and exceed the NAA standards for quality school-age care and conduct surveys and observations with parents, staff and community members. They also hosted National endorsers who performed a two-day evaluation visit, where program quality in curriculum, environment, health, safety and nutrition, administration and human relationships were demonstrated.

Lance Cpl. Josue Aguirre
Desert Warrior Staff

The station youth center’s School Age Care Program was accredited by the National Afterschool Association, Nov. 18, 2008.

The accreditation identifies quality after-school programs and was a team effort by parents, teachers and children.

The program has many options and activities, said Shanna Thomas, administrator for the Child, Youth and Teen Program here. It is not just an extension of their school day and has several useful functions.

The center offers many activities for the children. Some are structured, such as art projects, while others are free choice, ranging from playing video games to playground activities.

The Boys and Girls Club of America also has organized programs for participating youth.

“It really speaks to the quality of people we have in our program, because it is a joint effort with them and it speaks to the importance of Marine Corps families,” said Thomas.

NAA endorsers performed a two-day inspection visit, during which curriculum, environment, health, safety and nutrition were all evaluated. The center here exceeded the expectations of the endorsing visitors.

“We are very proud of our accomplishment as a program and as a contributing member of our community,” said Thomas.

It helps keep our youth off the streets, said Pat Carson,

station youth center director. The children know it’s a safe place and can come to the center in the event that their parents aren’t home.

The center also provides volunteer opportunities adults can use to build college applications or job interview skills. There are projects involving cooking, art, gaming and even health and nutrition experience can be gained by volunteering.

The child development center here is also accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

“Our childcare center is accredited and it was the first center in the Marine Corps to be accredited under the new NAEYC standards and third in the Department of Defense,” said Thomas.

Both the CDC and YCSAC program are now accredited here.

The School Age Care program is available before and after school for Kindergarteners through 12-year-olds. Care is available for preschool children Mondays through Thursdays from 8-11 a.m.

The NAA was formerly the National School-Age Care Alliance and was founded in 1987. It is a professional association with members that include more than 10,000 practitioners, policy makers and administrators. It represents all public, private and community based sectors of after school programs including those on military bases worldwide.

“Our command is ensuring that our families have the best programs and facilities available to an active duty population,” said Thomas, “It is of the utmost importance.”

Chapel Call “BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU ASK FOR”

Lt. Shawn Osborne
Station Protestant Chaplain

As I read about the bank bailouts, more and more people defaulting on loans, and an ever-increasing number of bankruptcies, I am amazed that no matter how many times we hear the phrase “money can’t buy happiness,” we’re still willing to give it another chance.

I read somewhere that the most requested prayer in the U.S. is to win the lottery, which reminds me of the scene in “Bruce Almighty,” when Jim Carrey, acting as God, just gave everyone what they wanted.

The reality is that we’re not much different than children. If given the chance, my son would probably eat nothing but candy and cookies. As a good parent, I will not give him everything he wants, but I am bound to give him what he needs, even if he doesn’t like it.

God is like that with us. He is not going to lavish us with gifts or money because we think it would improve our lives.

He might deliberately withhold “blessings,” because they could actually do us more harm than good. I am convinced more than ever that the more money a person has, the less that person will rely on God.

James 4:3 is quite clear when it says, “When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.”

Jesus himself warns about the trappings of riches. All three synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark and Luke—quote Jesus as saying,

“It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

Anybody can try to impress you with a cool car and designer clothing, but character is what really counts. God doesn’t care about outward appearances—read about John the Baptist sometime—but he looks at the heart.

After all, it was the Pharisees that Jesus kept calling hypocrites because they looked good on the outside, but were rotten on the inside.

Be honest with yourself. Why do you want what you want? Check your motives.

I implore you this Lenten season to really reflect on Jesus’ words in Matthew 6:19-21 when he says, “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

DESERT WARRIOR

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Yuma Marines win MCI West culinary competition

Lance Cpl. Austin Hazard
Desert Warrior Staff

Marines from Yuma won their second consecutive Culinary Team of the Quarter competition for Marine Corps Installations West held at Camp Pendleton Feb. 25.

Cpl. Jacob Ballard and Lance Cpl. Ja’Lisa White, Marine Wing Support Squadron 371 food service specialists, beat out 11 other teams to take first place with their Cajun-styled dishes.

Before the culinary competition began, eight



Marine Wing Support Squadron 371 food service specialists Cpl. Jacob Ballard and Lance Cpl. Ja’Lisa White show off their first place medals and plaque at the Culinary Team of the Quarter Competition in Camp Pendleton, Calif., Feb. 25.

Yuma Marines competed with each other for a chance to participate.

“We actually held a competition between mess hall Marines here first, to see who would go,” said Ballard. “So it was pretty competitive from the get-go.”

The MCI West competition consisted of a knowledge and cooking test.

The knowledge portion required the teams to answer 60 culinary questions, including food temperature, portion control, safety, menus, rules and sanitation standards.

“These are tasks you use on a day-to-day basis,” said Donovan Brown, event coordinator. “There’s no study guide. Your study guide is showing up to work.”

Only the top four teams advanced to the cook-off portion of the competition, with Yuma, a team from Twentynine Palms, Calif., and two civilian teams from Pendleton making the cut.

“It was difficult,” said White. “We actually came in fourth on the knowledge portion.”

The theme for cooking this quarter was Cajun Creole. Participants had to make a meal out of a list of ingredients that related to Mardi Gras.

“It’s a challenge to walk into a kitchen you’ve never been in before,” said Brown. “Not only did the participants have to get adjusted to new settings, they also worked right next to the current staff in charge of feeding the Marines their regular meals.”

After being judged on workspace sanitation, presentation, taste and several other factors, Ballard and White were named the winners for their feast of finger



Photos by Pfc. Jerrick J. Griffin

Cpl. Jacob Ballard, Marine Wing Support Squadron 371 food service specialist, chops tomatoes at the Culinary Team of the Quarter Competition in Camp Pendleton, Calif., Feb. 25. Each team had to prepare a full-course, Mardi Gras-themed meal.

shrimp po’ boys, jammin’ jambalaya, Cajun-fried okra tempura with scallion sauce and chocolate crepes with fresh strawberries.

Ballard and White received a plaque to display in the station mess hall, embroidered chef coats, gold medals and seats for a two-week course at the Culinary Institute of America in New York City.

“It’s a great opportunity,” said White. “I’ll be the first lance corporal from Yuma to take the course.”

White left for the Culinary Institute of America Sunday.

Even though Ballard is slated to deploy with MWSS-371 later this month, he will be attending the class at the Culinary Institute of America after he returns.

The station mess hall will also serve Ballard and White’s winning menu in the near future.

Yuma resident skirts death in Goldwater Range mine

Lance Cpl. Gregory Aalto
Desert Warrior Staff

A Yuma resident survived a mine shaft fall on the air station’s Barry M. Goldwater Range, March 3.

Patrick Kautzman, a 61-year-old retired mechanical contractor, fell 15 feet onto a wood beam in a 70-foot-deep mine shaft. He incurred only minor injuries while hiking with five friends inside the Betty Lee Mine, about 40 miles southeast of the air station.

“I was walking with some friends inside a mine, following some rail tracks in the dark. I took a step and fell through a piece of rotted wood,” said Kautzman, who lives in Yuma in the winter and Montana in the summer.

The mine shaft Kautzman fell into was a restricted area, said Richard Cerka, station range warden.

“When I fell, my butt hit (the wood beam) and I held on for dear life. I could hear gravel and debris falling a long ways. I thought I was done,” said

Kautzman, who had a Goldwater range pass.

After the fall, Kautzman’s friends called emergency services, and the Yuma County Sheriff’s Office search and rescue team responded.

After three hours of clenching to the beam, Kautzman was rescued.

Situations like this are the reason range permits specify mines as off-limits, said Del Maslen, station range warden.

“Mines are very dangerous. You aren’t supposed to go in them. It’s against range laws. I am very fortunate,” said Kautzman.

After being recovered, Kautzman was issued a \$75 trespassing fine.

“Part of being issued a range pass, is acknowledging you will stay out of restricted areas,” said Cerka.

Most Goldwater Range mines have had no maintenance since the early 1940s, and none are safe, said Maslen.

“We knew better than to go into the mine, and I almost paid the ultimate sacrifice for it,” said Kautzman.

Visiting nurse helping Marines, sailors for more than 8 years

Cpl. Laura A. Mapes
Desert Warrior Staff

The station’s Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society’s visiting nurse, Paula Snook, has been helping Marines, sailors, veterans and their families throughout Arizona with in-home medical care, assistance and education for more than eight years.

As a part of the society’s visiting nurse program, she provides health education and continuity between patients, doctors and military resources.

With experience in postpartum or newborn care, post-surgical follow-up care, ongoing medical conditions, child development, parenting issues and medication and nutrition, Snook is a great source of information.

Snook is also an international board-certified lactation consultant and offers classes for new mothers.

“Paula has been a great support with my baby,” said Nichole Ahlstrom, a Marine spouse here. “When I came home from the hospital, she helped me think positively. She has been a wonderful friend, and I can always call her when I need anything.”

While Snook doesn’t specialize in prenatal care, she will make house calls for pregnant service members, spouses and veterans, to check up on the women between hospital visits.

“I don’t usually see them before the baby is born, but my job is to help women know how to take care of themselves prior to having the baby,” said Snook.

As the visiting nurse, Snook also provides at-home wound care. Her first call was after a Marine crashed his motorcycle. He was released from the hospital with an injury to his calf, and instructed to do dressing changes frequently.

“He had no idea how to change the wound dressing, so I went over there and taught him and his family how to do it,” said Snook. “Every time he sees me, he gives me a hug.”

Snook enjoys working with military families because her husband is a retired Marine. She said she enjoys giving back to those who serve.

“I think we all hope we have made a difference at some point in our lives,” said Snook. “I certainly hope I have.”

She also provides combat casualty support for veterans throughout Arizona and often travels to Phoenix to visit with Marines and sailors who are struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder or



Photo by Cpl. Laura A. Mapes

Station visiting nurse, Paula Snook, gives tips to Marines on how to quit smoking during her smoking cessation class here Tuesday. Snook teaches classes on the second Tuesday of every month. “I am a recovering smoker, so I know where you’re coming from, and I know where you’re headed,” Snook explained to her class.

with the transition from combat back into society.

“I had a couple of brothers who came home from the war and got into school, but they were having a difficult time adjusting and dealing with the stress,” said Snook. “They were down and out, lost their GI benefits, and had to pay their tuition back. I was able to help them get their feet back under them and now they are back in school and doing quite well.”

As the only combat casualty nurse in Arizona, Snook makes an average of 40 contacts per month with people who are referrals from hospitals, combat veterans and new mothers.

Last year, she traveled almost 4,000 miles and made roughly 650 visits to patients.

On top of everything else, Snook also offers smoking cessation classes on station.

“I wanted to quit smoking after 34 years, so I went to a cessation class,” said Snook. “The class was led by an instructor who had never been a smoker.

I’ve been there and done that, and I’ve been smoke free for nine years now. I think I have a lot to offer, and I have great compassion for the nicotine drug addict.”

After attending the one-day tobacco cessation class, graduates can take their certificates of completion to the branch medical clinic pharmacy, where they can receive medication to aide in smoking cessation.

As the visiting nurse, Snook can set up many programs to help the local military community as long as it is within the guidelines of the society.

Beside serving the Navy and Marine Corps, Snook has been given the authority to offer assistance to other services within the state, as long as it doesn’t interfere with her patients here.

“I am employed by the Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society, but I work for you guys,” said Snook. “I am very proud of my Marines and sailors.”

For more information about these services, call Snook at 928-269-5401.

Every day is a holiday at library

Lance Cpl. Austin Hazard
Desert Warrior Staff

The station library is celebrating a different holiday every day, ranging from federal holidays to obscure celebrations, in an effort to increase patronage.

The library began its “Every Day is a Holiday” campaign with Random Acts of Kindness Day on Feb. 17 when the library staff handed out several toys and gifts to random patrons.

For each holiday, the library holds a related event or activity to participate in and pulls out books related to that day.

Though patronage has increased slightly since the events began, the library has seen large numbers of returning customers, said Jamie McCormick, library assistant manager.

“I think we are building a relationship with our customers,” she said.

Several patrons agree that the library’s new atmosphere makes it more fun and interesting.

“It’s the most unorthodox library that I’ve ever seen,” said Pfc. Glenn Campson, who visits the library daily. “But it’s awesome. It’s a lot of fun.”

Since the campaign started, the library has celebrated more than 14 holidays, such as Pluto Day, the 79th anniversary of the ex-planet’s discovery. During this day, the library held a debate on Pluto’s planetary status.

Library staff also go out of their way to research the unusual, said McCormick.

On March 16, the library plans to observe Buzzard Day, a holiday in Hinckley Township, Ohio, celebrating the seasonal migration of large numbers of buzzards in the town.

“We want to be a resource for anything from the mundane to the bizarre,” said McCormick.

With upcoming holidays like Stop the Clocks Day, Peanut Cluster Day and Goof Off Day, McCormick has plenty of bizarre traditions and events to prepare for.

“We’re hoping to get to the point where people come in and ask ‘What holiday are you celebrating today?’” said Stephanie Jacobson, library technician.

FALLEN ... from page 1

CLC-16’s commanding officer, executive officer and company first sergeant, along with other CLC-16 Marines, traveled to Indiana Tuesday to attend at Whitworth’s funeral.

BCP ... from page 1

assistance to ensure Marines meet body composition and appearance standards.

The MAP has been around for a while, but the old Marine Corps order didn’t focus on weight redistribution or MAP standards, said Wahnee.

“The new order is geared more toward appearance,” said Wahnee. “There are what you would call skinny-fat Marines. They can make it on the scale, but if you get them into a service uniform or PT gear you can see that they are unfit.”

With the new stricter policy, the Marine Corps is looking to commanding officers and sergeants major to ensure those not within standards are held accountable.

Marines who do not comply with these standards will not be promoted, permitted to re-enlist or be assigned to special duty assignments. However, if the Marine returns to standards during the assignment process, they will not be enrolled in these programs.

“Tendencies toward increased weight have become a dangerous trend over the last decade in our American society, but Marines are different,” said Gen. James T. Conway, Commandant of the Marine Corps in the August 2008 All Marine Message. “Even during a period of conflict, we must hold ourselves to a higher standard and we must, all of us, maintain that standard.”

EOD ... from page 1

Marine,” said Sgt. Maj. John Scott, MWSS-371 sergeant major.

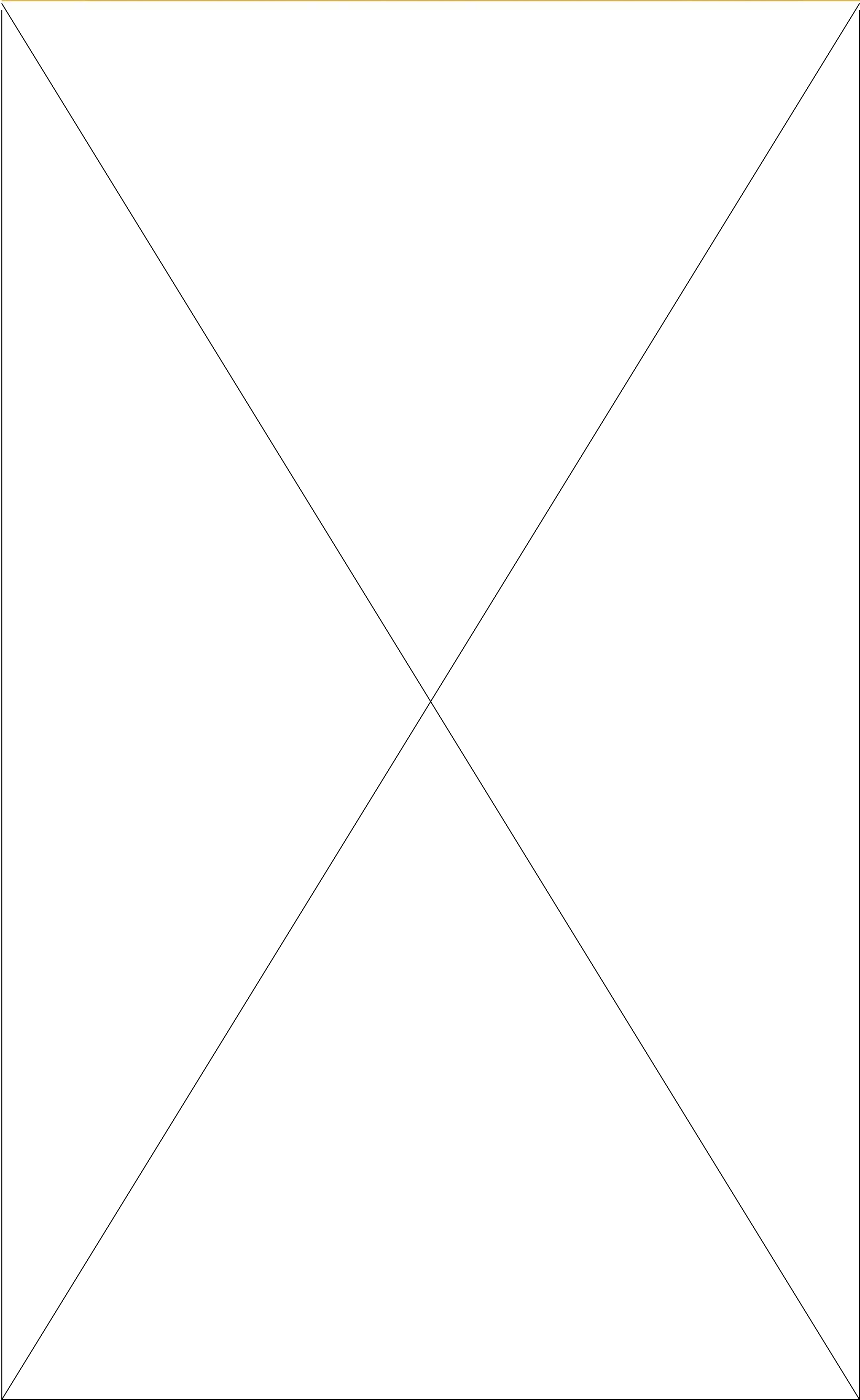
The 27-year-old Honolulu native is scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan with MWSS-371 today.

Yuma mayor declares aviation week



Photo by Cpl. M. Daniel Sanchez

Yuma Mayor Larry Nelson, center right, proclaims March 8-14 Aviation Week in Yuma on the flight line here March 5 in anticipation of Saturday's air show. Nelson then presented the proclamation to station executive officer Lt. Col. Willis Price, right, while station operations officer Lt. Col. Mark Workman and Yuma International Airport Authority president Karl Moedl looked on. Nelson thanked the Marines and sailors here for their service to the country and said he looked forward to the upcoming air show.



ADS

SPORTS

Air station to start Little League Baseball

Lance Cpl. Austin Hazard
Desert Warrior Staff

The air station’s youth baseball program will compete within the Little League Baseball organization beginning March 20, allowing kid sluggers to potentially play at the national level.

“Honestly, I think it was necessary now that Yuma has Little League out in town,” said Jill Bryen, station youth sports coordinator. “We have to be able to compete with them to keep from losing kids to them.”

After finding out Yuma had its own league, Jason Matlock, station assistant athletic director, went to Camp Pendleton, Calif., to see what programs they had for youth baseball. Once he discovered they also had their own Little League, Matlock and Bryen contacted the Williamsport, Pa., corporate office to inquire about creating a Little League district at the air station.

The league has been sanctioned and is simply awaiting official approval.

Station teams will differ from other traditional Little League teams, being named after Marine Corps squadrons, such as the Tomcats, Stingers and Black Sheep, instead of major league teams.

There are three divisions within Little League: tee ball, for players ages 5-6; minor division, for ages 7-9; and the major division, for ages 10-12.

“The advantage to going Little League is that you get a lot of support from Little League,” said Matlock. “They provide coaches’ training, administrative support, rulebooks—things like that.”

Another change to the program is that scores will be kept in the minor and major divisions, which was not previously done in youth baseball.

The season is scheduled to begin April 18 and will run through mid-July.

In Little League, major division games don’t have to end with the regular season, said Matlock.

“Little League allows the kids to go on further,” he said. “If they do well enough, they can move



Photo by Lance Cpl. Austin Hazard

Seth Osborne, plays catch with his father, Lt. Shawn Osborne, in preparation for the air station’s upcoming Little League season. Seth will play for the Stingers tee ball team, coached by his father. Little League Baseball, an international youth baseball program, will be available for the first time at the air station March 20.

on to the postseason, which can even last through September.”

Games will be played on Saturdays, with some games on Thursday evenings, depending on scheduling, said Bryen.

Station teams will not only play each other, but

Yuma teams as well.

The station registration fee is \$45 for the first child and \$30 for each additional child. The fee includes a team shirt and baseball cap, as well as an end-of-season trophy and party.

A meeting for parents and anyone interested in

volunteering as a coach or umpire will be held at the station gym, March 26. Only people with air station access can participate in the station league.

For more information, contact Bryen or Matlock at 928-269-2280.